

# Hunting Plan

## Amendment To Conduct Becoming an Outdoors Woman Feral Hog Hunt

Tommy Peacock 5-30-03  
Refuge Manager Date

for Thomas J. Sprusa 6/17/03  
Refuge Supervisor Area IV Date

Jon Andrews 6-18-03  
Regional Refuge Chief Date

Hunt Plan Amendment  
Becoming An Outdoors Woman (BOW) Hunt

I. Introduction

II. Conformance to Statutory Authorities

III. Statement of Objectives

The objective of the BOW hunt is to provide a quality hunting experience for a non-traditional hunting group and assist the refuge with feral hog control.

IV. Assessment

The BOW hunt will specifically target feral hogs. Feral hogs are an exotic species on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge. They cause extensive habitat damage. They also prey on ground dwelling vertebrates. Their damage includes predation on sea turtle eggs and destruction of sea turtle nests.

V. Description

- a. Areas of the refuge that support target species: The entire 12, 358 acre St. Vincent Island supports populations of feral hogs.
- b. Areas of the refuge to be opened to hunting: The areas open for other hunting seasons will be open for the BOW hunt. (See attached map)
- c. Species designated for hunting and hunting periods: Feral hogs will be the only species hunted during the BOW hunt. The hunts will be scheduled in October and March. The number of hunts and the hunt days will be based on the hunter participation and success. The hunts will be held on a Saturday with hunters allowed to check in on Friday and spend Friday night and Saturday on the island. The hunts will end at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Hunters will have the option of staying until Sunday Morning
- d. Consideration of user fees: The participants will be charged a \$15.00 user fee. This fee is consistent with the fee currently charged for the sambar deer hunt.
- e. Consultation and coordination procedures with States, including justification of refuge-specific regulations. The BOW is a state operated program. The education specialists for the State of Florida would be responsible for informing BOW students about the hunt. The hunt would be used as an advanced educational opportunity for women who have completed the basic course. The state would provide paperwork at the BOW session and applications would be returned to St. Vincent NWR.

f. Methods of control and enforcement: Hunters would be checked against an approved participant list when entering the island. One law enforcement officer will patrol during the hunt to check for violations. Game will be picked up throughout the one day hunt. It is permissible for hunters to field dress their hogs in the field. Rubber gloves are recommended when field dressing feral hogs. Hunters will have the opportunity to weigh their game if so desired. Data collected will include the number of hunters and the number of hogs harvested. A self checking system will be established to allow checking of game. Only the Indian Pass check station will be open.

g. Staffing and funding needs:

One Law Enforcement Officer	\$ 300.00
Two Check station staff and game pick up	\$ 1,200.00
Toilet Rentals	<u>\$ 650.00</u>
	\$ 2,150.00

h. Consideration of providing opportunities for hunters with disabilities.

The island consists entirely of sand roads. Access by wheelchair is nearly impossible. We do provide transportation on the island to and from hunting areas for ambulatory disabled hunters.

VI. Measures taken to avoid conflicts with other management objectives.

a. Biological Conflicts. The species hunted is an exotic that causes habitat damage and depredates an endangered species. Conflicts with nesting bald eagles are minimized by closing the required area around the nest trees.

b. Social Conflicts. Other public uses will be closed during the hunt period to minimize conflicts.

VII. Hunt specifics

a. Refuge Specific Regulations:

1. The hunting season will be open only during advertised hunt periods.
2. Non-movement Stand Hours will be from ½ hour before sunrise until 9:00 AM.
3. The only species allowed to be hunted will be feral pig. There will be no size limit or bag limit on feral pig.
4. The hunt will end at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.
5. Areas marked with Eagle nesting area, shorebird closed area or area closed signs are closed to all public entry.
6. Hunt hours will be ½ hour before sunrise until 5:00 PM.
7. Camping and fires are restricted to the Indian Pass camping areas on the west end of the island. Fires may be restricted or banned during dry periods.
8. Hunters may set up camp beginning at sunrise on Friday before their Saturday hunt. Campers must remove all personal equipment from St. Vincent Island by



11:00 AM on Sunday of the hunt period.

9. Tree stands may only be set up after you check in and must be removed from the island at the end of the hunt.

10. Game may be retrieved from the closed areas only if accompanied by refuge officers.

11. Youth hunters (younger than 16 years old) must be supervised by an adult at least 21 years of age and must remain in sight and normal voice contact of the adult. An adult may supervise only one youth.

12. Permits for the BOW hunt will be issued by St. Vincent NWR.

13. Hunters when outside the campsite area must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of a solid, unbroken pattern of fluorescent orange-colored material visible above the waistline.

14. Firearms are limited to muzzle loaders or bow and arrow. Firearms must meet all state regulations for large game hunting.

15. Only stand, still, and stalk hunting are permitted. No hunter drives are permitted.

16. The use of flagging material and/or bright eyes is prohibited. Defacing of plants or trees is prohibited.

17. Target practice is not allowed on the refuge. Muzzle loaders can be discharged at the designated discharge area between 5:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

18. No discharging of firearms (including cap firing) in campgrounds.

19. Caps must be removed from muzzle loaders and arrows quivered before and after legal shooting hours.

20. Hunters must check out at the check station prior to leaving the refuge at the end of their hunt. Campsites must be checked by a refuge staff member or volunteer before the hunters leave the refuge.

21. No motorized equipment, generators, or land vehicles (except bicycles) are allowed.

22. Game harvested must be checked before leaving the island.

23. Littering and cutting of live trees is prohibited. Only dead and down wood may be cut. Bag and remove litter when leaving the island

24. No live game may be brought into the check station.

25. Quiet time must be observed in the campground between 9:00 PM and 5:00 AM. No loud or boisterous behavior or activity.

b. Outreach Plan. The hunt will be advertised at the BOW workshops conducted by the state of Florida. The hunt will be marketed as an advanced workshop for successful BOW participants.

c. Hunter application and registration procedures. Successful BOW participants will complete applications for the hunt following the workshops. Participation will be limited to 50 hunters. The selected hunters will be checked against a list at the check station the day before or the day of the hunt. The hunters will be provided with a minimum of one instructor per three participants if an instructor is requested. The

participants selected will have to be successful BOW graduates as well as have successfully completed the muzzle loader and /or archery classes. In addition, the hunters must be proficient with a 45-50 caliber muzzle loader or with a bow with a minimum of 35 pound draw weight.

d. Description of the hunter selection process. Hunters completing applications will be selected by a computer drawing if the number of applicants exceeds the number of available permits. The state will provide applications for the hunt to successful BOW participants and the applications will be sent to St. Vincent NWR.

e. News Release

f. Description of hunter orientation, including pre hunt orientation. The hunters will attend an hunt meeting the evening prior to the hunt. At this meeting, all rules and regulations of the hunt will be discussed.

g. Hunter requirements

1. State determined age requirement: There will be no state determined age requirement, but hunters will have to have successfully completed the state BOW workshop.

2. Allowable equipment: The hunt will be a primitive weapons hunt. The hunters will be required to hunt with either a bow or muzzle loader that meets the state requirements for large game hunting.

3. Licensing and Permits: The participant will be required to have a valid State Hunting License. In addition , they will be required to have a refuge permit which will be issued during check-in.

4. Reporting Requirements: The participants will be required to report harvested game at a self-check in check station.

5. Hunter training and safety: Hunters will be required to have completed the State of Florida BOW course. The participants selected will have to be successful BOW graduates as well as have successfully completed the muzzle loader and /or archery classes. In addition, the hunters must be proficient with a 45-50 caliber muzzle loader or with a bow with a minimum on 35 pound draw weight. Hunters will be required to wear a minimum of 500 square inches of hunter orange while hunting. Hunters will access the island by boat, but will be required to access hunting areas on foot or by bicycle. The Indian Pass campground will be the only campground open during the hunt.